

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, May 16, 2003

PROPOSAL WOULD REDUCE PSAS FROM 83 TO 39, BETTER ALIGN PSAS WITH DC NEIGHBORHOODS

Mayor Williams and Chief Ramsey this past week unveiled a new plan to enhance community policing in the District by redrawing the Police Service Areas (PSAs) to more closely match neighborhood boundaries and by providing more flexibility to staff neighborhood police patrols. The proposed changes to the PSA boundaries are the result of an internal MPDC study of the PSA system that was mandated by the DC Council under legislation approved earlier this year. The proposed plan would reduce the number of PSAs from 83 to 39, with the boundaries generally matching the "neighborhood clusters" used by the DC Office of Planning to coordinate neighborhood-based planning throughout the city. Aligning PSAs with the neighborhood clusters would enhance inter-agency coordination in addressing neighborhood crime and disorder problems and would help increase resident involvement in community policing. In addition, reducing the overall number of PSAs would increase the number of officers assigned to each area, thus providing more flexibility to staff neighborhood patrols. The MPDC is seeking public comment on the proposed plan. Participants at the May 10 Crime Forum II had a chance to go over the new PSA boundaries with their respective district commanders and offer input and suggestions. That feedback process will continue over the next few weeks, as follow-up meetings are scheduled in each of the seven police districts.

- ① Read the full news release at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=208>
- ① The proposed new PSA boundaries can be reviewed on the MPDC website, and comments can be offered via email, by clicking on:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/PSAs_proposed.shtml
- ① A tape of Crime Forum II is being broadcast on DC Cable Channel 16, operated by the Office of Cable Television and Telecommunications:
<http://occt.dc.gov/main.shtml>

OPEN AIR MINI-STATIONS RETURN TO THE STREETS OF DC

It's become a spring tradition in DC: as the weather warms up and more people take to the streets, the MPDC rolls out its Open-Air MiniStations to enhance police presence and service in DC neighborhoods. Open-Air MiniStations are picnic-table-and-chair sets that serve as outdoor, portable police facilities. The MiniStations are temporarily placed in different communities for varying periods of time so the MPDC can deter criminal activity and better serve residents. The MiniStations serve two main purposes: 1) to let drug dealers, gang members, and other criminals know that illegal activity will not be tolerated in the community; and 2) to help law-abiding residents with information and assistance for building a safe and healthy neighborhood. The MiniStations are staffed by MPDC officers from the police district in which the MiniStation is located. At the MiniStation, residents can file a police report, provide information about crime and disorder problems in their community, and obtain information about MPDC programs and services.

- ① Learn more about the Open-Air MiniStations by visiting:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/programs/ministationfaq.shtml>
- ① To suggest a location for an Open-Air MiniStation, contact your local district commander, or submit an email to webmaster@mpdc.org
- ① In some instances, the Open-Air MiniStations will be deployed in drug free zones declared by Chief Ramsey. To learn more about the MPDC's enforcement of the District's Anti-Loitering/Drug Free Zone law, go to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/drugfreezone.shtml>

MPO FRED ROSARIO OF 5D LAUDED AS MPDC "OFFICER OF THE MONTH" FOR MAY

At about 10 pm on January 30th, a visitor from New Jersey was robbed at gunpoint of \$40 and his 2003 Dodge Caravan. An officer responded to the scene and broadcast a lookout for the vehicle. About three-and-one-half hours later, Master Patrol Officer Fred Rosario of the Fifth District alertly observed the vehicle in question and attempted to stop it at Bladensburg Road and Oates Street, NE. But rather than pull over, the vehicle sped off at a high rate of speed, with MPO Rosario and, eventually, other officers pursuing with caution. The pursuit ended when the vehicle struck a fence in the 1300 block of New Jersey Avenue, NW. Five individuals—four adults and one juvenile—were apprehended and charged with unauthorized use of a vehicle, pending investigation of the more serious carjacking offense. MPO Rosario's attention to detail and his quick action resulted in the prompt closure of a serious crime, the apprehension of several suspects and the speedy return of a visitor's vehicle. For his outstanding work, MPO Rosario was recently honored as the Departmental Officer of the Month, during the May CHAMPS (Capital Hotels Award Metropolitan Police Service) awards ceremony, held at Hilton Washington. He was one of 12 MPDC officers honored during this month's CHAMPS event.

"CLICK IT OR TICKET" CAMPAIGN IN FULL GEAR THIS MONTH

With more people traveling on DC roads and highways around the Memorial Day weekend, the MPDC is joining law enforcement agencies throughout the region and across the country in stepping up enforcement of seat belt and child safety seat laws. It's part of the "Operation ABC (America Buckles-up Children)/Click It or Ticket" campaign, which combines strict enforcement with increased educational efforts designed to get more adults to buckle up themselves and to properly secure their child passengers. DC has a "primary" seat belt law, meaning that officers can issue seat belt tickets as a stand-alone violation. In addition, the District recently passed one of the nation's toughest child passenger safety seat laws. Besides requiring young people under the age of 16 to be secured in a seat belt, the law also mandates that children under the age of 8 be properly seated in an installed infant, convertible (toddler) or booster seat. Adult violations of DC's seat belt laws carry a \$50 fine; first violations of the child safety seat law carry a \$75 fine, with higher fines for subsequent violations.

NEWS & NOTES

April Photo Enforcement Results. Data from April show continued reductions in aggressive driving as a result of the MPDC's red-light and photo radar camera programs. The percentage of vehicles speeding aggressively in photo radar enforcement zones was under 8 percent in April, compared with nearly 31 percent when the program began in July 2001. Red-light running violations are down more than 67 percent over the past three-and-a-half years at the 39 intersections equipped with cameras. Get the latest results on both programs at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/traffic.shtm>.

"Chatting with the Chief." Chief Ramsey discusses public safety in the District with host Stephanie Gaines-Bryant—and takes your phone calls too—on Tuesday, May 20, from 6:40-7 pm, during his monthly segment on WHUR 96.3-FM.

- ① Read summaries of their outstanding actions by going to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/heroes/champs/2003/05.shtm>

- ① To learn more about DC's "Click It or Ticket" campaign, go to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/clickit.shtm>
- ① The national Operation ABC Mobilization runs from May 19 through June 1. Details on the program, including the dangers of driving while unbuckled, are available from the National Safety Council at:
<http://www.nsc.org/airbag.htm>

DATA BOX

Homicides (as of 5/16/03)

- 2003: 90
- 2002: 78
- % Change: +15.4%

Arrests (week ending 5/10/03)

- Total: 895
- Drugs: 122
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 30
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 38

Firearm Recoveries (as of 5/13/03)

- Total: 718
- April: 72

Traffic Fatalities (as of 5/16/03)

- 2003: 16
- 2002: 23
- % Change: -30.4%